



CITIZEN CORPS

2003 QUICK FACTS

- **GO SERV has allocated more than \$2 million in Citizen Corps and CERT funds since late 2002 and is planning to distribute nearly \$3 million in 2004.**
- **GO SERV supports more than 100 Citizen Corps and CERT programs statewide.**
- **More than 10 million Californians are served by Citizen Corps Councils.**
- **The State Citizen Corps Council was formed by GO SERV with key community and government representation.**

Shortly after the September 11, 2001 attacks, President Bush launched the USA Freedom Corps to capture the spirit of service that emerged throughout our country. Citizen Corps, a vital component of the USA Freedom Corps, was created to coordinate volunteer activities, preparedness and response training, and community disaster education to make our neighborhoods safer, stronger and better prepared to respond to disasters and other emergencies. The Citizen Corps initiative is composed of five key programs—Citizen Corps Councils, Community Emergency Response Teams, Medical Reserve Corps, Volunteers in Police Service, and Neighborhood Watch. GO SERV works closely with both state and federal Departments of Homeland Security, the Corporation for National and Community Service, state Office of Emergency Services, California's Tribal Nations and 58 counties to implement these Citizen Corps programs.

Citizen Corps Councils

Councils bring together local leaders, citizen volunteers and the network of first responder agencies to better coordinate new and existing volunteer programs and resources. Councils help drive local citizen participation by expanding volunteer opportunities and matching the needs of first responders with community volunteers. GO SERV coordinates the State Citizen Corps Council and a growing number of local Councils across the state. Currently, FEMA has 40 registered local Councils in California and expects more than 100 by 2004.

Community Emergency Response Team

The CERT program trains people in vital skills to be prepared to respond to disasters and other emergencies. The 20-hour CERT course provides training in disaster preparedness, fire suppression, first aid, and light search and rescue. Before a disaster, CERT members volunteer on projects that increase community preparedness and safety. When emergencies occur, CERT teams are ready to provide critical support to first responders, their community, and organize volunteers at a disaster site. Over the next few years, California's CERT programs will train hundreds of new instructors and instructor-trainers, who will provide CERT training to several thousand Californians. During 2003, GO SERV will more than double the number of CERT programs from 49 to more than 100, train more than 200 new instructors and California's CERT programs will provide training to more than 8,000 people.

Medical Reserve Corps

The Medical Reserve Corps Program coordinates practicing and retired physicians, nurses and other health professionals to volunteer in their communities before and immediately following a major disaster. In early 2003, three Medical Reserve Corps programs received grants and more than 10 have formed since without funding, including the nation's largest in Los Angeles with over 1,000 interested individuals. In California, GO SERV works closely with the Emergency Medical Services Authority and Department of Health Services to coordinate Medical Reserve Corps programs.

To find out more about Citizen Corps and its related programs, visit the GO SERV website at <http://www.goserv.ca.gov> or call GO SERV at 916/323-7646.

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